

FINFISH REGULATIONS			
Species	Open Season (Note Below)	Size in Inches	Daily Possession Limit (lbs.) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	1/1-4/30 5/1-5/22; 6/1-7/31 (Sun – Thur) 8/1-12/31 (Sun – Thur)	12	100 500 (p/w); 200 (o); 100 (l) 500 (p/w); 200 (o); 100 (l)
Bluefish	All Year		5,000
Blue Marlin	All Year (2,3)	86	1 fish/trip (cannot sell)
Cod	Rolling Closures (4)(5)	22	800 (N of 42°) ; 1,000 (S of 42°)
Dabs (Plaice)	All Year	14	
<b>Dogfish</b>	5/1-10/31 11/1-4/30		600 300
<b>Eel</b>	(6)	6	
Grey Sole (Witch)	All Year	14	
Haddock	All Year	19	
Monkfish	All Year	17 11- tails	
<b>Northern Shrimp</b>	1/19 – 3/12 (Mon – Fri)		
Pollock	All Year	19	
Redfish	All Year	9	
River Herring	All Year (Mon, Wed, Fri-Sat) (6)		25 river herring/day
Sailfish	All Year (2,3)	57	1 fish/trip (cannot sell)
<b>Scup</b>	1/1-4/30 5/1-10/31 11/1-12/31	10	10,000 varies by gear type/contact DMF 1,500
<b>Sea Herring</b>			varies by area/contact DMF
<b>Striped Bass</b>	7/11-12/31 (Sun – Wed) (2,6)	34	30 fish/vessel
Summer Flounder	1/1-4/22 Squid Season 6/10-12/31 (Sun – Thur)	14	2,500 (100 at 75% quota) varies by geartype/contact DMF 300 (n); 200 (h)
Tautog	4/16-5/15 7/11-10/31	16	40
Weakfish	All Year	16	
White Marlin	(2,3)	62	1 fish/trip
White Perch		8	
Windowpane		12	
Winter Flounder		12	
Yellowtail Flounder		13	

Finfish measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail. For fish with forked tails, the upper and lower fork may be squeezed together to measure the tail extremity.

**Exceptions:** for black sea bass, the tail filament is not included, and billfish are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the tail fork.

**Regulations subject to change:** Contact DMF for further information.

**The taking of eels and seaworms** are subject to the control of the cities and towns. Consult local authorities for regulations and permits.

**Notes:**

Species listed in **bold** require a species specific endorsement to carry out lawful commercial fishing activity (see permit section for further information and a schedule of fees).

1. Gear codes: p = sea bass pot fishery; w = weir fishery; o = other fishing gear as permitted; l = lobster trap fishery; n = nets; h = hooks.
2. May be taken by hook and line only; spearing, netting, snagging are prohibited.
3. No commercial fishing except for swordfish.
4. Weight of fillets will be multiplied (x) by 3, and the weight of headless whole-gutted cod will be x by 1.25; cheeks and gonads exempt.
5. Gonads not to be > 10% weight of cod aboard vessel.
6. Subject to regulation by DMF and local community. Consult local regulations. Sale of river herring prohibited along Connecticut River Watershed.
7. Mutilation, except evisceration, of striped bass is prohibited. Discarding of dead, legal size striped bass is prohibited. High-grading striped bass is prohibited.

**FINFISH DEFINITIONS**

**Angling:** Fishing with handline or rod, with naturally or artificially baited hook.

**"Coastal Waters" (under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts):** include all of Mass. Bay, Cape Cod Bay, Nantucket Sound, the waters within the rise and fall of the tide and extends three miles offshore from an established baseline. It does not include the waters within or above any fishladder or dam, nor the waters above any tidal bound legally established by DEP in streams flowing into the sea.

**Fish:** Any animal life inhabiting the ocean or its connecting waters, including any crustacea or marine fish, whether free swimming or free moving, and any shellfish or seaworms, whether or not embedded in the soil.

**Snagging, Snatching or Hooking:** The taking of fish not attracted by bait or artificial lure with hooks, gangs, or lures, whether baited or unbaited, in manner so as to pierce and hook a fish in any part of the body other than the mouth.

The verb **To Fish** in all of its moods and tenses is to take or attempt to take fish by any means, whether or not such method or means results in their capture.

**Sale of Fish:** A permit is required to sell fish.

**Portions of Streams** flowing into coastal waters may be closed during spawning season for the purpose of protecting smelt and their spawn. Notices of such closings are posted on or near such closed areas giving the bounds thereof.

**FINFISH PROHIBITIONS**

**Trawling, Gillnetting, Seining, Torching** and other fishing methods are illegal in certain areas at certain times of the year. Specific laws and regulations are available from DMF’s Boston office.

**Snagging, Snatching or Hooking** of anadromous fish: including shad, smelt, white perch, striped bass, trout and salmon, but excluding alewives or river herring is strictly prohibited.

The taking of Sturgeon, Atlantic Salmon, all marine mammals, all sea turtles and the Diamond Black Terrapin is prohibited.

The sale of Billfish (except Swordfish) landed in MA is prohibited.

A minimum of 6 1/2" mesh is required in the cod-end, 6” throughout remainder, by trawlers capable of catching flounder. There are area and season restrictions on mobile gear, contact DMF for details.

A minimum of 6 1/2" mesh is required for gillnets fished for roundfish in state waters, and 7” for “tie-down”, flatfish gillnets.

No vessel (except purse seiners) over 90' registered length may fish in MA waters. Maximum vessel size is 72' length overall for draggers & scallopers.

Vessels using nets may not fish in coastal waters with disks, rollers, or rockhoppers greater than 12" in diameter.

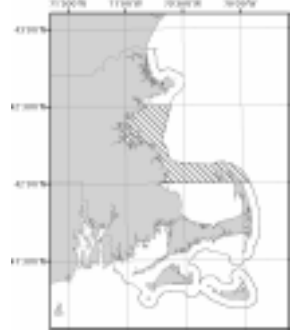
Mobile gear fishing in coastal waters at night is prohibited.

**GROUNDFISH CLOSURES IN THE GULF OF MAINE**

These closures apply but are not limited to the use of gillnets, otter trawls, line trawls, and hook and line. For further information on regulated gear and exemptions see 322 CMR.

Cape Cod Bay and Massachusetts Bay Closure from Plymouth

North to Marblehead (April through May and October through November): Except as exempted in 322 CMR 8.12(7), it is unlawful for commercial fishermen to possess or fish for regulated groundfish species taken from an area within the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth north of the 42 [degrees] line and south of the 42 [degrees] 30' line.



Upper Massachusetts Bay and Ipswich Bay from Marblehead to the New Hampshire Border

(April through June): it is unlawful for commercial fishermen to possess or fish for regulated groundfish species within the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth north of the 42 [degrees] 30' line to the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border.



May Closure East of Cape Cod (May 1 – 31): it is unlawful for

commercial fishermen to possess or fish for regulated groundfish species within the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth east of Cape Cod south of latitude 42 [degrees] and east of longitude 70 [degrees].



Click here for further federal closed areas:  
**<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/info4.pdf>**

**SHELLFISH & SEA URCHINS**

Species	Closed Season (Note Below)	Possession Limit	Minimum Size
Bay Scallops	4/1-10/1 (1)	10 bushels/day (includes shells)	Well-defined annual growth line
Conchs	(1)	---	2¾" width
<b>Horseshoe Crab</b>	All Year (Mon – Fri) (1)		1,000 horseshoe crabs/day
<b>Surf Clams</b>	(1)	400 bushels/48 hrs.	5"
Oysters	(1)		3"
Soft-shell Clams	(1)		2"
Sea Scallops	(1)		3½" height
Quahogs	(1)		1"thickness
<b>Sea Urchins</b>	5/1-8/31 (SCUBA) 5/1-10/30 (Mobile Gear) (1) (2)		2" (excludes spines)

**Shellfish Minimum Sizes** are measured along the longest diameter. Species listed in **bold** require a species specific endorsement to carry out lawful commercial fishing activity (see permit section for further information and a schedule of fees).

**Regulations subject to change:** Contact DMF for further information.

**Notes:**

1. Subject to modification by Town Regulations
2. Sea Urchin minimum size is measured as the longest diameter exluding the spines.

**The taking of shellfish** are subject to the control of the cities and towns. Consult local authorities for regulations and permits. However, DMF has authority to regulate surf clams, ocean quahogs & shellfish taken from certain contaminated areas.

**Sale of shellfish:** To sell shellfish, an individual must possess a town/city commercial shellfish permit, a state commercial fisherman permit endorsed for shellfish, and a shellfish ID card issued by DMF. Commercial harvest of sea scallops by-hand requires an individual to possess a commercial permit endorsed for sea scallop diving.

**FINFISH & SHELLFISH PERMITS FEES**

<b>Commercial Permits:</b>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Res.</u>
Boat (60-99 feet)	\$195	\$390
Boat (0-59 feet)	\$130	\$260
Individual	\$65	\$130
Shellfish & Rod & Reel	\$55	\$130
Shellfish only	\$40	\$80
Rod & Reel	\$35	\$100

<b>Dealer Permits:</b>		
Wholesale Dealer	\$130	\$260
Wholesale Broker	\$130	\$260
Wholesale Truck	\$130	\$260
Retail Store	\$65	\$130
Retail Truck	\$65	\$130
Retail Boat		\$65

\$130	Bait Dealer	\$65	\$130
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<b>Special Permits:</b>		
Aquaculture	\$10	\$20
Contaminated Shellfish		

